

Opening Date: December 20, 2021
Closing Date: Open Until Closed
Work Location: Austin, TX
Posting Number: 22-03R
Monthly Salary: \$4,023.17-\$5,000.00*
Group/Class: B21/1833
Travel %: 20%
Division/Department: AC/Strategic Communications
Number of Positions: 1

*Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications
*Previous applicants will be considered

JOB VACANCY NOTICE

Media and Public Relations Specialist (Information Specialist IV)

REPOST

Texas Water Development Board, Stephen F. Austin Building
1700 North Congress Ave., Room 670, Austin, Texas 78701
Please contact Human Resources for accommodation requests.
Phone: (512) 475-2142
Apply at: Work in Texas www.workintexas.com OR
HR@twdb.texas.gov

To be considered for this position, the applicant MUST submit five writing samples: two press releases, one article, and two samples of the applicant's choice. Samples should demonstrate the breadth and scope of writing abilities. You may email these samples to HR@twdb.texas.gov after applying through WorkInTexas.com.

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) endorses telecommuting and hybrid workplace plans, in addition to other flexible work alternatives. We offer competitive compensation and benefits package including medical, dental, vision, 401(k), flexible spending, and flexible work hours so you can have a work/life balance! For more information about these benefits and more visit: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/jobs/benefits.asp>.

Veteran's Preference

Veterans, Reservists, or Guardsmen with an MOS or additional duties that fall in the fields of 465 Public Affairs Mass Communication Specialist, MC Mass Communication Specialist, PA Public Affairs Specialist, 4502 Communication Strategy and Operations Officer, or other related fields pertaining to the minimum experience requirements may meet the minimum qualifications for this position and are highly encouraged to apply.

Additional Military Crosswalk information can be accessed at
https://hr.sao.texas.gov/Compensation/MilitaryCrosswalk/MOSC_InformationandCommunication.pdf

Job Description Summary

The Texas Water Development Board is seeking a motivated and detail-oriented communicator who will be dedicated to sharing the stories of our state's most important resource: water. This person will perform advanced (senior-level) work that involve coordinating and executing the research, writing, editing, and distribution of information and materials for release to news media and for use by the agency, the public, and other agencies. Serves as the agency liaison with media. In a Communications capacity, supports efforts to plan and execute the TWDB's biennial Water for Texas conference. May train others. Works under limited supervision, with considerable latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgment. Reports to the Manager of the Strategic Communications Department.

Female and minority applicants are encouraged to apply.

The Texas Water Development Board does not discriminate on basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, age, or disability in employment or provision of services, programs, or activities.
Please visit TWDB Career Page: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/jobs/> for more information.

Males born on or after January 1, 1960, will be required to present proof of Selective Service registration on the first day of employment or proof of exemption from Selective Service registration requirement. All offers of employment are contingent upon the candidate having legal authorization to work in the United States. Failure to present such authorization within the time specified by the U.S. Department of Labor will result in the offer being rescinded. Candidates must be eligible to work in the United States without requiring sponsorship. Only applicants interviewed will be notified of their selection or non-selection. Resumes will not be accepted in place of a completed State of Texas application unless indicated.

TWDB participates in E-Verify! Information from each new employee's Form I-9 will be provided to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and, if necessary, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to confirm work authorization.

HR-002 (Non-Supervisory)
Revised 06/26/2020



The TWDB is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations for applicants and employees with disabilities. If a reasonable accommodation is needed to participate in the job application or interview process, to perform essential job functions, and/or to receive other benefits of employment, please contact the Human Resources Division for assistance at (512) 475-2142. Deaf and hard of hearing applicants may contact our office via Relay Texas at 1-800-735-2989 (TTY/TDD).

Essential Job Functions

- Serves as primary agency liaison with media and coordinates media interviews.
- Researches and identifies story ideas, angles, and relevant media to proactively pitch.
- Writes and distributes press releases, media advisories, and email blasts.
- Supports the planning and execution of the agency's Water for Texas conference.
- Develops talking points and media interview materials.
- Advises senior management and staff on news issues.
- Conducts staff media training.
- Develops and executes media plans for meetings, conferences, and agency initiatives.
- Coordinates and executes press conferences.
- Builds and maintains relationships with media.
- Manages agency media lists.
- Compiles daily news clips and distributes to TWDB staff.
- Writes and edits other agency materials as needed, including articles for the Texas Water Newsroom.
- Develops, coordinates, and distributes the monthly internal and external newsletters.
- Develops, posts, and manages some website content.
- Maintains confidential and sensitive information.
- Ensures individual and team files (electronic and hard versions) are appropriately maintained and timely disposed of in accordance with the agency's records retention procedures and schedule.
- Maintains required certifications and licenses and meets the continuing education needs and requirements of the position to include attending mandatory training courses.
- May be required to operate a state or personal vehicle for business purposes.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in Journalism, Public Relations, English, Communications, or a related field.
- Three to four years of media relations experience.
- Experience writing press releases, articles, and other materials (written samples required; see note above and below).
- Education and experience may be substituted for one another on a year-for-year basis.

Preferred Qualifications

- More than four years or more experience in media relations.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs)

- Knowledge of local, state, and federal laws and regulations relevant to Communications and of the principles and practices of public administration.
- Knowledge of news and communication media.
- Knowledge of social media platforms and trends.
- Knowledge and master of grammar, style, and usage guidelines.
- Skills in using such Microsoft Office programs as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Skills in use of internet, email, word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and database software.
- Skills in attention to detail and accuracy.
- Skills in using Adobe Creative Suite.
- Skills in oral and written communication.

Job Vacancy Notice (cont.)

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- Skills in pitching news media through oral and written communication.
- Ability to adhere to work schedules, follow procedures with respect to leave, and submit accurate timesheets by prescribed deadlines.
- Ability to manage multiple projects and deadlines.
- Ability to make mature, objective decisions and identify areas of potential problems.
- Ability to perform effectively and willingly when changes occur in scope and nature of the work and work environment.
- Ability to perform routine and non-routine work assignments accurately and on time with little or no supervision.
- Ability to perform assigned duties and improve work habits and/or output.
- Ability to complete assigned work on time, neatly, and with infrequent errors.
- Ability to interpret policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Ability to provide prompt, courteous, and accurate assistance and clear and concise communication to internal and external stakeholders both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to work and cooperate with others in a team environment.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks.
- Ability to stand/sit/move with no physical limitations or aids to perform activities, such as retrieve/replace files in a large file system for boxes up to 30 lbs.
- Ability and willingness to travel 20% of the time, primarily within the state of Texas.
- Ability to operate a vehicle (state or personal) for state business and maintain a driver's license and driving record that complies with state and agency requirements.
- Ability to work a schedule that may occasionally exceed 8 hours a day, including early mornings, nights, and weekends.
- Ability to train others.
- Ability to work with senior management.

Remarks

- **To be considered for this position, the applicant MUST submit five writing samples:**
 - **two press releases,**
 - **one article, and**
 - **two samples of the applicant's choice.**

Samples should demonstrate the breadth and scope of writing abilities. You may email these samples to HR@twdb.texas.gov after applying through WorkInTexas.com.

- Copy of required academic transcripts and/or licensures and driving record must be submitted at the time of hire. Failure to provide required documentation will result in no further consideration for employment.
- Important Notice: Otherwise qualified candidates who are ultimately considered for potential employment with the Texas Water Development Board may be the subject of a request for any criminal history record information maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). Evidence of a criminal conviction or other relevant information obtained from the DPS shall not automatically disqualify an individual from employment with the Texas Water Development Board.